

AMBER Alert

The AMBER Plan was created in 1996, as a powerful legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, a bright little girl who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas, and then brutally murdered. The AMBER Plan evolved after the outraged community suggested that radio stations broadcast alerts to provide immediate response and to prevent future incidents.



Amber Hagerman

Resources

Alabama Department of Public Safety
Highway Patrol Division
Alabama Bureau of Investigation
Internet Crimes Against Children
Missing and Exploited Children's Center
1-800-228-7688

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678

Alabama Broadcasters Association
Cumulus Broadcasting
Emergency Alert System
Alabama Department of Transportation
BellSouth



Alabama's AMBER Alert Plan

A voluntary partnership among Alabama's law enforcement agencies and broadcasters, made possible by the integral support of the Alabama Broadcasters Association and BellSouth.

For more information about AMBER Alert, please contact the Missing and Exploited Children's Clearinghouse at 1-800-228-7688
www.dps.state.al.us/abi

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Alabama's AMBER Alert Plan



A Guide for Law Enforcement

*Alabama
Department
of Public Safety*

Alabama's AMBER Alert Plan

Alabama's AMBER Alert is a voluntary partnership among law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases. Every



law enforcement agency in the state is invited and encouraged to participate in the program.

Statistics show that in the most serious child abduction cases, 74 percent of the children murdered by non-

family members are killed within the first three hours of their abduction.

The AMBER Alert Plan focuses on those critical moments immediately after an abduction occurs to disseminate as much useful information as possible to the public.

This immediately galvanizes the community to assist in the search for the child and abductor before it is too late.

Law Enforcement Participation

Participating law enforcement agencies agree to:

- Adopt the criteria established by the AMBER statewide taskforce;
- Adopt formal departmental policies and operating procedures regarding the program;
- Identify and appoint agency staff responsible for designating an AMBER alert;
- Participate in training for familiarization and to ensure consistent statewide operations; and
- Activate the system only when all four criteria for activation are met.

Criteria for Triggering an Alert

The following four criteria must be met in order for the system to be activated:

- Law enforcement confirms a child has been abducted;
- The child is younger than 18;
- Law enforcement believes the circumstances surrounding the abduction indicate that the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death; and



- There is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help.

Steps for Activation

Once a law enforcement agency decides to activate the AMBER Alert system, the agency:

- Broadcasts a statewide teletype through the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center indicating a child has been abducted and an AMBER Alert is forthcoming;
- Prepares and faxes to DPS the AMBER Alert Bulletin, which includes information and descriptions regarding the abducted child, the suspect and suspect vehicle;
- Assigns personnel to receive incoming telephone calls regarding the alert for 24 hours or until the alert is canceled.

DPS then will activate the state Emergency Alert System using the new Child Abduction Emergency code, which is specifically designed for AMBER Alert. DPS sends the information regarding the abduction to all television and radio broadcasters throughout the state. Radio stations interrupt programming to announce the alert, and television stations and cable systems run a "crawl" on the screen, including a picture of the child.